National Aeronautics and Space Administration
LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER
WHITE SANDS TEST FACILITY

WSTF SAFETY AND HEALTH CAPABILITIES

SUMMARY

The White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) Safety & Mission Assurance (S&MA) offices support all WSTF test activities and general industrial safety and health program needs. S&MA provides for the development of safety and health policies, surveillance of hazardous activities and testing, investigation of mishaps and near-miss incidents, training, and certification.

BACKGROUND

The WSTF Safety & Mission Assurance offices are operated by the NASA Test and Evaluation Contract (NTEC). The disciplines include system safety, industrial hygiene, industrial safety, test safety, and safety training. All safety and health policies and practices are in compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and NASA directives and safety regulations. WSTF is a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star site with an aggressive safety program developed to foster a positive safety culture where employees and management work together to identify hazards and eliminate job-related mishaps.

PROCEDURE

S&MA, in collaboration with the NASA Safety Officer, provides clear and concise safety consultation to managers and supervisors on matters concerning industrial and test issues. They assist in developing safety plans and procedures for site and department level activities, review procedures and test preparation sheets to ensure safety compliance is maintained, and serve as advisors to test directors and project engineers on safety matters.

Dedicated safety professionals are assigned to test projects to review designs, establish quantity distance criteria, research historical mishap data, research OSHA standards, and provide guidance to engineers during initial project planning and operational activities.

Qualified safety professionals provide direct oversight during test operations to ensure employees are kept informed on safety and health concerns. An employee feedback system affords the employee an opportunity to voice concerns before, during, and after testing periods. A 'STOP' policy exists at WSTF where anyone perceiving a potential hazard or unsafe condition can stop any operation to resolve the concern. Safety personnel are often called upon to resolve these issues.

CONTACT

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